

Vol. XXX, No. 9,164.

THE WAR IN EUROPE.

THE TRIBUNE is the only newspaper in the United States receiving full special dispatches from the seat of war; and fully represented by Special Correspondents with both Prussian and French armies, and at the leading capitals. Thus for THE TRIBUNE dispatches have been sent, in an unbroken form, by the New-York Herald, World, Times, and Sun. They were so used yesterday by the New-York Herald and Sun.

CRITICAL POSITION OF THE FRENCH ARMY.
THE CROWN PRINCE MARCHING ON CHALONS—RAZINAINE MUST CUT HIS WAY OUT OF METZ OR CAPITULATE.

LONDON, Friday, Aug. 19, 1870.
A dispatch from Berlin states that the French army was separated at Metz, and the main army at Metz checked by the first and second armies of Prussia. The Crown Prince with three army corps is now marching to attack Frossard at Chalons. The dispatch adds that Marshal Bazaine must cut his way through the German armies of Prince Frederick Charles and Gen. Steinmetz, or his Army of the Rhine will be forced to capitulate.

THE LATEST FROM THE FRONT.
FIGHTING ALL DAY ON THURSDAY—THE FRENCH HAVE CONFIDENCE OF VICTORY.

LONDON, Friday, Aug. 19, 1870.
The following is the latest from the seat of war: "There was fighting all day on Thursday at Metz. The latest French dispatches are full of expressions of confidence of victory."

THE EMPEROR SAID TO BE A MONOMANIAC.
HE CHARGES THE FRENCH DISASTER TO TREASON.

LONDON, Friday, Aug. 19, 1870.
Telegrams received here to-day from Brussels report the Emperor quite ill with symptoms of intense cerebral excitement. He is said to charge his misadventure to treason. This story is forwarded as one of the rumors of the war, but is generally discredited here.

SUNDAY'S BATTLE AT METZ.
A TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT WITNESSES THE ENGAGEMENT—A SUCCESSFUL TRAP SET FOR THE PRUSSIAN—GREAT LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES—THE FORCES ENGAGED—RETRAIT OF THE FRENCH.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
LONDON, Friday, Aug. 19, 1870.
The special correspondent of THE TRIBUNE at Metz writes on Monday (15th): "Yesterday we thought ourselves shut up here, and all chance of sending letters gone; for we got nothing, even from Paris. But this morning I hear that a post will start for the capital, and I take my chance of your getting what I am able to tell from the inside of a town which is surrounded by armies—whether French or Prussian does not much matter so far as news is concerned."

"At 11 o'clock on Sunday Bazaine effected a grand reconnaissance with one division of Ladmirault's corps. At 2 o'clock it was of no great importance. Till 4 o'clock it was of no great importance. Then, the Fourth Army Corps, forming the first line of battle, accomplished a maneuver intended to deceive the Prussians into the belief that it was retreating. This was accomplished by 4:15. The Prussians fell into the trap, rushed forward and attacked with surprising vigor. The Fourth Corps, whose retreat to the left was a mere feint, fell at once on the enemy's flank, while MacMahon on the right attacked simultaneously. The Prussian attack meantime had been developed in great force on the French center."

"The movements on both sides were effected with singular precision, and the whole spectacle was like a review at Chalons. The Prussians advanced in close column against the French line, which their artillery, splendidly served as it was, had vainly attempted to shake. The French officers consider that the Prussian infantry was relatively inferior to the Prussian artillery. The needle-gun is heavy and appears to incommode the Prussians greatly when climbing a high or moving rapidly over broken ground. The soldiers, themselves, are active. They fire lying flat on the ground, seeking cover from every irregularity; but do not use their knapsacks as the French do to make little ramparts in front of them and rest for their guns. It is true of this, as has been said of the other battles of Worth and Forbach, that the Prussians fired with great deliberation, while the French rattled away as fast as they could discharge their chapeaux."

"The regiments most closely engaged were the 60th, 90th, 44th, 60th, 33d, 54th, 65th, and 85th of the line; the 11th and 15th foot chapeaux; and the 8th, 9th, and 10th batteries of the first regiment of artillery. Those which suffered most were the 44th and 90th of the line, and the 15th foot chapeaux. The 44th especially was terribly shattered, while the 85th, though in the thickest of the action, lost but 35 men killed and wounded. The Colonel of the 44th was killed; the Colonel of the 3d horse chapeaux and Gens. Duplessis and Castaner were wounded."

"As it is impossible to leave the town, and this action was fought, or at any rate begun, at some distance outside the fortifications, I cannot pretend to give you the account of an eye-witness, nor a complete account at all. The above details are chiefly gathered from officers coming into town after the fight was over. At the beginning I followed a troop of hussars as far as permitted, and what I saw of the fight was from a hill close by the walls. Previously, I was seated in a cafe with some officers of the hussar regiment. A staff officer came to summon the regiment; in five minutes it was in motion. It halted at first at the hill close by the walls. On a sudden signal it went tearing away to the front. In a moment more the artillery on both sides had covered the entire valley of the river, as well as the whole visible world in front and the ground beyond, with a thick cloud of smoke. There was nothing to do but to return to town."

"By 8 o'clock in the evening a bulletin was placarded in the streets saying 'The firing is nearly over. The Prussian lines extended three leagues. Ground is gained in every direction.' It does not say by whom the ground was gained. Officers who came back later from the field maintained that victory rested with the French; that the Prussians had been out-generaled and lost heavily, while the French was comparatively little exposed. But a Prussian officer who had been taken prisoner and who came into a cafe on parole with a French officer told a different story. Said he, 'You might better surrender at discretion. We are more than 100,000 strong. You will be crushed. As to the battle, you had your own way at first, for we be-

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"It is difficult to question even officers closely, so keen are they the suspicious about spies; and to ask whether the French army had suffered a defeat would be to expose myself to instant expulsion, or worse. Hence I can give you only such particulars as are collected in the ways I have mentioned. As a Frenchman, I believe in the success of French arms; but I know not why the advanced columns have withdrawn again under the walls of the fortress."

"This morning, Monday, there were reports of heavy artillery toward Thionville; but all is again quiet. We only know that Sunday's conflict was not decisive, and that another battle is imminent. The troops are never at rest. Maneuvers in one direction or another are going on constantly. Orders have just been issued that no civilian shall leave the city on any pretext."

"Two shots from Fort St. Quentin have just demolished the head of the Thionville railway bridge at Metz station. I am told that it was done to cut off a detachment of 500 Prussians encamped at Montigny, who attempted to cross the Moselle and were seen from the fort. Montigny is a mile and a quarter distant from Metz. At 7 o'clock this morning two Prussian cuirassiers entered that town; they were followed by four others. Breakfast was served to the six, and paid for. They promenade the town till 8 o'clock, and then withdrew, not only unmolested by anybody, but carrying off two prisoners—a St. Cyr pupil and one orderly. This will give you some idea of the dash and boldness of the Prussian cavalry."

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"The regiments most closely engaged were the 60th, 90th, 44th, 60th, 33d, 54th, 65th, and 85th of the line; the 11th and 15th foot chapeaux; and the 8th, 9th, and 10th batteries of the first regiment of artillery. Those which suffered most were the 44th and 90th of the line, and the 15th foot chapeaux. The 44th especially was terribly shattered, while the 85th, though in the thickest of the action, lost but 35 men killed and wounded. The Colonel of the 44th was killed; the Colonel of the 3d horse chapeaux and Gens. Duplessis and Castaner were wounded."

"As it is impossible to leave the town, and this action was fought, or at any rate begun, at some distance outside the fortifications, I cannot pretend to give you the account of an eye-witness, nor a complete account at all. The above details are chiefly gathered from officers coming into town after the fight was over. At the beginning I followed a troop of hussars as far as permitted, and what I saw of the fight was from a hill close by the walls. Previously, I was seated in a cafe with some officers of the hussar regiment. A staff officer came to summon the regiment; in five minutes it was in motion. It halted at first at the hill close by the walls. On a sudden signal it went tearing away to the front. In a moment more the artillery on both sides had covered the entire valley of the river, as well as the whole visible world in front and the ground beyond, with a thick cloud of smoke. There was nothing to do but to return to town."

"By 8 o'clock in the evening a bulletin was placarded in the streets saying 'The firing is nearly over. The Prussian lines extended three leagues. Ground is gained in every direction.' It does not say by whom the ground was gained. Officers who came back later from the field maintained that victory rested with the French; that the Prussians had been out-generaled and lost heavily, while the French was comparatively little exposed. But a Prussian officer who had been taken prisoner and who came into a cafe on parole with a French officer told a different story. Said he, 'You might better surrender at discretion. We are more than 100,000 strong. You will be crushed. As to the battle, you had your own way at first, for we be-

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"It is difficult to question even officers closely, so keen are they the suspicious about spies; and to ask whether the French army had suffered a defeat would be to expose myself to instant expulsion, or worse. Hence I can give you only such particulars as are collected in the ways I have mentioned. As a Frenchman, I believe in the success of French arms; but I know not why the advanced columns have withdrawn again under the walls of the fortress."

"This morning, Monday, there were reports of heavy artillery toward Thionville; but all is again quiet. We only know that Sunday's conflict was not decisive, and that another battle is imminent. The troops are never at rest. Maneuvers in one direction or another are going on constantly. Orders have just been issued that no civilian shall leave the city on any pretext."

"Two shots from Fort St. Quentin have just demolished the head of the Thionville railway bridge at Metz station. I am told that it was done to cut off a detachment of 500 Prussians encamped at Montigny, who attempted to cross the Moselle and were seen from the fort. Montigny is a mile and a quarter distant from Metz. At 7 o'clock this morning two Prussian cuirassiers entered that town; they were followed by four others. Breakfast was served to the six, and paid for. They promenade the town till 8 o'clock, and then withdrew, not only unmolested by anybody, but carrying off two prisoners—a St. Cyr pupil and one orderly. This will give you some idea of the dash and boldness of the Prussian cavalry."

"Last night we thought we heard the Prussians shouting victory, notwithstanding the defeat we believe they suffered. But it seems some of their regiments sing hymns nightly, with accompaniments from their military bands—a custom they have preserved from the battle of Leuthen, where they advanced to the charge singing Luther's hymn. They follow it with hurrahs. We heard them distinctly."

"The Emperor and his staff, as well as the Prince Imperial, are at Longueville. As I write there passes a closed carriage escorted by a picket of Hussars in command of a Captain of the Staff. It contains a Prussian envoy reconducted to his own lines. Our officers say that he brought a request for an armistice, and admitted that the Prussian losses were considerable; but he did not tell his errand to them or to me."

A PRUSSIAN ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE—A TRAIN OF HEAVY SIEGE GUNS EN ROUTE TO FRANCE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
LONDON, Friday, Aug. 19, 1870.
The special correspondent of THE TRIBUNE at Berlin writes on Tuesday (16th): "The encounter before Metz on Sunday was an attack upon the rear-guard of the French and the repulse of a sortie from the fortress by troops of the First East Prussian and Seventh Westphalia army corps. The commanders of these two army corps—Von Manteuffel and Von Zastrow—having directed the movements, it is probable that the siege of Metz will begin at once. The siege-train at Magdeburg has left for France already, on Saturday last, and other siege artillery is to follow it. Strasbourg, it is supposed, will be besieged exclusively by South Germans, chiefly Baden troops. An early surrender is, however, anticipated after the earnestness of the siege shall have been sufficiently shown—not so in the case of Metz."

FRENCH REPORTS OF THE BATTLE—THE PRUSSIAN ATTACK TOO SOON—GREAT HAVOC MADE IN THEIR RANKS—AN ARMISTICE ASKED FOR AND REFUSED.

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